
Journal Abstracts

The following abstracts are reprinted verbatim as they appear in the cited source.

Carlson, A. & Senauer, B. (2003). The impact of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children on Child Health. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 85(2), 479-491.

Data from the third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey are used to analyze the effect of the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program and other factors on the health of U.S. preschool children. Ordered probit equations are estimated for the physician's overall evaluation of the child's health. The WIC Program has a significant positive impact on the overall health of children. In particular, children in households participating in WIC are significantly more likely to be in excellent health. Increased household income also improves their health.

Finke, M.S. & Huston, S.J. (2003). Factors affecting the probability of choosing a risky diet. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 24(3), 291-303.

Eating a poor diet is risky behavior. Inadequate nutrition compromises health and can increase the probability of premature death and/or reduced life quality. This paper uses a cost-benefit analysis from a health economic perspective to assess impact of costs and benefits associated with the odds of choosing a risky diet. Results indicate that time preference as measured through education, smoking, exercise, nutrition panel use, and

motivation for nutrition knowledge significantly affect the odds of choosing a risky diet. In addition, variables hypothesized to influence the associated costs of tradeoff between present and future utility—location (both region and urbanization), income, race, gender, and age—are found to have an impact on the likelihood of choosing a risky diet.

Getter, D.E. (2003). Contributing to the delinquency of borrowers. *The Journal of Consumer Affairs*, 37(1), 86-100.

What contributes most to borrower delinquency—"excessive" borrowing that results in greater financial stress or unforeseen negative income and wealth shocks? Using data from the 1998 Survey of Consumer Finances, this paper provides evidence that consumer delinquency problems are mainly the result of unexpected negative events that neither the lender nor the borrower could have anticipated at the time the credit request was evaluated. The size of the household payments burden has an insignificant effect on delinquency risk and very little effect on default risk. Finally, household financial assets that can be used as a buffer against negative shocks also serve as a very important predictor of delinquency risk.

Kempson, K., Keenan, D.P., Sadani, P.S., & Adler, A. (2003). Maintaining food sufficiency: Coping strategies identified by limited-resource individuals versus nutrition educators. *Journal of Nutrition Education*, 35(4), 179-188.

Objective: This study's purposes were to identify food acquisition and management coping strategies used by limited-resource individuals to maintain food sufficiency, compare strategies named by the target audience to those previously identified by nutrition educators, and examine these strategies to advance grounded theory.

Design: Eleven focus groups, conducted with 62 limited-resource individuals, elucidate coping strategies that they or others they knew used to acquire or manage food to maintain food sufficiency. The results were compared with practices as previously identified by nutrition educators who regularly worked with this audience.

Subjects/Settings: Subjects aged 19 to 67 from throughout New Jersey were recruited by Food Stamp agencies, low-income outreach programs, soup kitchens, welfare offices, Head Start centers, shelters, and food pantries.

Results: Of the 95 coping strategies identified, 83% were known from nutrition educators previously. Ten new practices (eg, selling blood) had not previously been identified by educators. Four of 10 practices were not found in the literature (eg, repeated participation in research studies). Six practices previously reported by nutrition educators were not mentioned by the study population.

Implications: Educators who work with limited-resource individuals are a good resource for research with this audience. Study findings may be important considerations for nutrition program planning and policy making.

Kolodinsky, J., DeSisto, T.P., & Labrecque, J. (2003). Understanding the factors related to concerns over genetically engineered food products: Are national differences real? *International Journal of Consumer Studies*, 27(4), 266-276.

Along with the rapid introduction of genetically engineered (GE) foods into the marketplace have come concerns about possible risks associated with this new technology. This study expands on previous research by exploring the relationships between certain sociodemographic, attitudinal and behavioural variables and North American college students' levels of concern over GE foods. Six index scales are created from the data and a series of anovas are conducted, and displayed visually using bar graphs, to examine the relationships between the explanatory variable and the students' levels of concern. The findings indicate that attitudinal and behavioural variables should be included in future models for predicting levels of concern for GE foods in addition to the socio-demographic variables currently used.

Schaffer, D.M., Gordon, N.P., Jensen, C.D., & Avins, A.L. (2003). Nonvitamin, nonmineral supplement use over a 12-month period by adult members of a large health maintenance organization. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, 103(11), 1500-1505.

Objective. National survey data show an increase in the prevalence of nonvitamin, nonmineral (NVNM) supplement use among adults over the past 10 years. Concern over this trend is based in part on reports of potential drug-supplement interactions. The type and prevalence of supplement use by demographic and behavior characteristics were examined among members of a large group model health plan, including those with selected health conditions.

Design. Data on the use of herbal medicines and dietary supplements among survey respondents were analyzed. Questions employed a checklist for six specific NVNM supplements with optional write-ins. **Subjects/setting.** A stratified random sample of 15,985 adult members of a large group model health maintenance organization in northern California, who were respondents to a 1999 general health survey.

Statistical analyses performed. Analyses were conducted with poststratification weighted data to reflect the actual age, gender, and geographic distribution of the adult membership from which the sample was drawn.

Results. An estimated 32.7% of adult health plan members used at least one NVNM supplement. The most frequently used herbs were Echinacea (14.7%) and Ginkgo biloba (10.9%). Use of all NVNM supplements was highest among females, 45 to 64 years of age, whites, college graduates, and among those with selected health conditions.

Applications. Dietetics professionals need to uniformly screen clients for dietary supplement use and provide accurate information and appropriate referrals to users.

Wheelock, J., Oughton, E. & Baines, S. (2003). Getting by with a little help from your family: Toward a policy-relevant model of the household. *Feminist Economics*, 9(1), 19-45.

Recent decades have seen dramatic changes in the ways in which households in developed Western economies gain their livelihoods, with marked elements of a return to old ways of working. There has been a shift from reliance upon one family *wage* to the need for family *employment* as well as growing reliance on self-employment and small business. These changes mean that childcare for working parents, and the promotion of a new small enterprise, are key areas of policy concern. Drawing on original English empirical research around both these themes, this article shows the ways in which UK households draw on redistribution between the generations as a —generally decommodified— contribution to livelihoods and “getting by.” We argue that these results confound widely utilized models of how people behave, and take particular issue with how economists and policy-makers model the household and its boundaries as the institutional context for individual decisions.